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**Subject:** EPA Mid-Atlantic Region Headlines -- Friday, May 20, 2016

## **EPA Mid-Atlantic Region Headlines**

### **Friday, May 20, 2016**

### **\*\*\* DAILY HOT LIST \*\*\***

#### **'Do not drink' advised for Vienna water after EPA issues C8 guidance**

**CHARLESTON GAZETTE-MAIL** Three West Virginia communities are changing their water sources after the federal Environmental Protection Agency released Thursday a new national standard for C8, a chemical that for years contaminated the drinking water of Wood County communities and is linked to cancer, thyroid disease and dangerously high blood pressure in pregnant women. The EPA's move caused immediate action, as West Virginia regulators on Thursday advised Vienna residents not to drink or cook with their water, based on test results over the past couple of years. "The Bureau for Public Health is working with the town of Vienna to implement appropriate precautions, which will include a 'Do Not Drink' advisory until additional testing and evaluation takes place," said Dr. Rahul Gupta, commissioner of the state Bureau for Public Health. "The Department of Health and Human Resources and the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety will assist those affected by the EPA's advisory, and the state will assist in securing installation of new filters. "Two other public water systems in West Virginia, located in Parkersburg and Martinsburg, were also affected by the new EPA thresholds. They have taken immediate action by using additional water sources to provide water." All three cities got their water through groundwater sources, or wells, said Walt Ivey, an environmental health official with the DHHR. Parkersburg and Martinsburg both had additional wells with lower levels of contamination, so they were able to turn off the chemically contaminated sources and residents should see no changes in their water service, Ivey said. The EPA's health advisory set a level of 70 parts per trillion of C8 in drinking water, saying chemical levels below that standard are "not expected to result in adverse health effects over a lifetime of exposure." Baseline testing required by the EPA and done in 2014 and 2015 had found chemical levels below a previous provisional health advisory but above the new advisory, Ivey said.

#### **EPA releases new safety advisories for chemicals**

**DOYLESTOWN INTELLIGENCER** The Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday released a long-awaited update to its drinking water advisories for unregulated chemicals perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). According to prior testing data of public and private water supplies in Bucks and Montgomery counties, it appears the updated advisories could mean some drinking water in the area is contaminated with the chemicals at a level above what the EPA deems is safe to consume. Officials from both the Horsham Water and Sewer Authority, Warminster Township Authority and Doylestown Township Municipal Authority in Pennsylvania told this news organization Thursday afternoon that they would shut down public drinking water wells contaminated with chemicals above the new recommended levels. The chemicals already had contaminated nine public and about 80 private water wells near a trio of current and former military bases in the region: The former Willow Grove Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Horsham Air Guard Station and former Naval Air Warfare Center in Warminster. The chemicals are suspected to have originated in firefighting foams used at the bases, and the military already has agreed to spend approximately \$19 million to provide replacement water and install filtration systems for public water wells affected by the chemicals, and bottled water and hook-ups to public systems for homes with affected private wells. Up until Thursday, the military had been gauging its response using short-term, provisional health advisories for the

chemicals set by the EPA in 2009: 0.4 parts per billion for PFOA in drinking water, and 0.2 ppb for PFOS.

## Free water offered to residents near tainted air stations

**PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER** State officials on Thursday began offering free bottled water to people who live near the former naval air stations in Montgomery and Bucks Counties, which are blamed for contaminating public drinking wells. The distribution of as many as two cases per day to residents in Warminster, Warrington, and Horsham Townships is a "precautionary action," Gov. Wolf said in a statement announcing the initiative. It occurred on the same day that federal officials released new guidelines that set a lower bar for the level of acceptable water contamination than what has been used as the standard in Horsham and Warminster. It was not immediately clear if the change would affect efforts to reduce contamination in those communities. Jeff Sheridan, Wolf's spokesman, said state environmental officials "would evaluate the appropriateness of continuing to provide bottled water" after reviewing the new advisory from the Environmental Protection Agency. Perfluorinated compounds - which were commonly used in firefighting foams at the former naval air stations in Willow Grove and Warminster - were found in the drinking water there in 2014. Such contaminants have been linked to cancer and reproductive issues. Local and state officials have worked with the Navy to take the contaminated wells off-line and offer bottled water to nearby residents whose private wells were contaminated. The scope of health problems, and how many people might want or accept the free water, was unclear. "We [already] use bottled water in my house and many of my neighbors do as well," said State Rep. Todd Stephens (R., Montgomery), who lives in Horsham and had pressed the governor's office to take action. "Many residents either have whole house filters that they had installed, or rely on bottled water for drinking and cooking."...

## Editorial: Hope for the Chesapeake Bay

**BALTIMORE SUN** We'll admit there are times that efforts to preserve and protect the health of the Chesapeake Bay feel a bit like mythology's Sisyphus and his rock. Just when you think the job is tough but possible, it all rolls back down the hill — another fish kill, another sewage spill, another protest staged by people opposed to curbing polluted runoff from streets or farm fields. But then there are also those moments when it's clear that the Chesapeake Bay is not beyond salvation and the efforts to date are not in vain. Such is the all-too-fleeting joy of a "C" on the latest report card from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. That may not sound like a reason to rejoice — many high schoolers with similar grades for 2015 likely faced somewhat less happy conversations with their guardians — but in this context, it actually is a hopeful sign. Recent report cards have hovered in the "D" range. The bay hasn't scored this high in 13 years. Only twice — in 1992 and 2002 — has it fared as well in the 30-year history of the report card, and those were years of drought....That's not to suggest it's time to break open the champagne and toast the improving fortunes of the nation's largest estuary. There are still too many serious issues facing the region, including those who would love nothing more than to see the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency dismantled and its Total Maximum Daily Load — the "pollution diet" for the Chesapeake Bay that expects ever greater water quality advances in the years ahead — tossed into the ash can. Still, maybe the achievement deserves a sip or two. Let's take a tip from various public school systems and celebrate an improved performance if not an actual "A" or "B." After all, the punishment handed to Sisyphus was not simply hard labor, it was for him to see that all his efforts were useless. That's clearly not the case with the Chesapeake Bay, and it does no harm to remind ourselves of that hopeful reality once in a while.

## Editorial: Report card brings good news on the bay

**ANNAPOLIS CAPITAL-GAZETTE** Since when is a C on a report card good news? When it occurs in the evaluation of the Chesapeake Bay by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, which has generally assigned D's during its three decades of doing this annual assessment. The 53 percent score for 2015 — up from 45 percent in 2013 and 50 percent in 2014 — was one of the three highest since 1986. And those previous high scores — in 1992 and 2002 — were in years in which major droughts kept polluted runoff out of the bay. By contrast, 2015 had typical weather. That makes the score a sign that the state's efforts to control runoff and clean up sewer plant emissions are having an effect. Chesapeake Bay Program Director Nick DiPasquale noted that "we've had over two centuries of environmental assaults on this ecosystem" and the bay watershed's population has doubled, to 18 million, since 1950. "It's a fantasy to think we can turn it around in two or three decades." Nonetheless, as DiPasquale also said, the latest findings indicate progress at "building resiliency back" into the ecosystem. Specifically, the report found that key fish populations such as blue crab and striped bass remain healthy, and there were improvements in water clarity and

aquatic grass growth...

## Science Guides Public Health Protection for Drinking Water

**THE EPA BLOG** (By Joel Beauvais) As a country, we've come a long way toward providing clean air, water, and land – essential resources that support healthy, productive lives. But we have more work to do to make sure that every American has access to safe drinking water. That's why EPA launched a concerted engagement effort with key partners and stakeholders – including state, tribal and local governments, drinking water utilities, and public health, environmental and community stakeholders – to develop and implement a national action plan to address critical drinking water challenges and opportunities. As always, our work to protect public health and the environment must consistently be built on a foundation of sound science and data. When it comes to drinking water, scientific information helps us identify pollutants of concern – including new or emerging contaminants – assess potential health impacts, and understand the steps needed to address them. Today, based on the latest science on two chemical contaminants called PFOA and PFOS, EPA released drinking water health advisories to provide the most up-to-date information on the health risks of these chemicals. These advisories will help local water systems and state, tribal and local officials take the appropriate steps to address PFOA and PFOS if needed.

## Cooperate With Bay Inspectors, Attorneys Say

**LANCASTER FARMING** WINTERSTOWN, Pa. — Having an inspector visit your farm may not be the most comfortable experience, but it need not be confrontational. “Be as cooperative as you can with these folks,” said Martin Siegel, an attorney at the Stock and Leader law firm. Siegel and his colleague Sarah Doyle explained the Chesapeake Bay farm inspection process to York County farmers on May 11 at the North Hopewell-Winterstown Volunteer Fire Company. The inspections are part of Pennsylvania's reboot of its Chesapeake Bay cleanup, launched in January. DEP plans to have 10 percent of the farms in the watershed inspected each year. In most cases, conservation district employees will perform the initial inspections. In counties where conservation districts refuse to take on this role, DEP inspectors will visit the farms. In the first round, inspectors will check to make sure farms have the required written plans, such as nutrient management, and erosion and sedimentation plans. Farmers can get out of the first round of inspections by submitting their plans when DEP requests them in writing. That's the best strategy, Siegel said. If farmers do not submit the documents, an inspector will call to schedule a time to visit. “Do not ignore a communication from DEP” and hope it will go away, said Siegel, who spent two decades as an assistant counsel at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, or DEP. The agency will eventually follow up with you, he said. Farmers do have the right to ask an inspector to get a warrant before inspecting the farm, but “use common sense,” Siegel said. Farmers may not want to annoy a person who has the power to fine them. A farmer will likely be dealing with the same inspector for several years. If that person thinks the farmer is a bad actor, the inspection could be expanded beyond the plans, Siegel said...

## Why I Love Wetlands

**EPA MID-ATLANTIC HEALTHY WATERS BLOG** (By Carol Petrow) May is American Wetlands Month which makes it a perfect time to talk about a passion of mine. Wetlands are the vital link between land and water. What is not to love about them? EPA proclaims that “Wetlands are natural wonderlands of great value.” My sentiments exactly! They provide important benefits to people and the environment by regulating water levels within watersheds, reducing flood and storm damage, improving water quality, providing important fish and wildlife habitat, and supporting educational and recreational activities...

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# PENNSYLVANIA

## **PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER**

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contaminating public drinking wells. The distribution of as many as two cases per day to residents in Warminster, Warrington, and Horsham Townships is a "precautionary action," Gov. Wolf said in a statement announcing the initiative. It occurred on the same day that federal officials released new guidelines that set a lower bar for the level of acceptable water contamination than what has been used as the standard in Horsham and Warminster. It was not immediately clear if the change would affect efforts to reduce contamination in those communities. Jeff Sheridan, Wolf's spokesman, said state environmental officials "would evaluate the appropriateness of continuing to provide bottled water" after reviewing the new advisory from the Environmental Protection Agency. Perfluorinated compounds - which were commonly used in firefighting foams at the former naval air stations in Willow Grove and Warminster - were found in the drinking water there in 2014. Such contaminants have been linked to cancer and reproductive issues. Local and state officials have worked with the Navy to take the contaminated wells off-line and offer bottled water to nearby residents whose private wells were contaminated. The scope of health problems, and how many people might want or accept the free water, was unclear. "We [already] use bottled water in my house and many of my neighbors do as well," said State Rep. Todd Stephens (R., Montgomery), who lives in Horsham and had pressed the governor's office to take action. "Many residents either have whole house filters that they had installed, or rely on bottled water for drinking and cooking."...

Peco sees a 'microgrid' in Delco community's future Peco Energy Co. wants to install a self-sustaining "microgrid" in a Delaware County community that has endured a large number of power outages. The utility has asked the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission for permission to spend about \$35 million to install the experimental microgrid in Concord Township, Delaware County, along the Route 1 corridor in Concordville. The microgrid, which could operate independently of the regional power grid during an widespread outage, would supply power to a 388-acre area that includes the Concord Township Municipal Complex, a fire station, a sewage-treatment plant, a retirement community, two medical facilities, two motels, two shopping centers, and a Wawa store. The three government facilities and 27 businesses have a typical aggregate peak load of 8.6 megawatts, Peco said...

Blog: Warming trend: Another month, another record For the 12th consecutive month, in April the world's estimated average surface temperature set a monthly record, according to the National Centers for Environmental Information. The April temperature was 1.98 degrees Fahrenheit above the 20th century average of 56.4, the government reported. The margin of error was plus or minus 0.23 degrees; No. 2 on the warm list was 2011, 1.49 degrees above the 20th century average. It was steamy in Indochina, where some areas experienced quite a heat wave. On the other end of the thermometer, the cool region south of Greenland persisted. The government also reported that the first four months of the year globally constituted the warmest such period in the 137-year database...

## **PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE**

Judge sets no timetable to rule on lawsuit against opponents of gas drilling, fracking near Mars School District campus It may be spring in Western Pennsylvania, but there's a new chill in the air in Butler County, where opponents of shale gas drilling and fracking near the Mars School District campus say they feel intimidated by gas leaseholders' legal efforts to silence them. "Our focus is all about protecting the 3,700 children at the Mars schools, but because of these lawsuits there are already people who have become shy and have stepped away from the group," Shelly Titchen, a member of the Mars Parent Group, said Thursday afternoon at the Butler County Courthouse. Ms. Titchen was one of more than 60 people — drilling opponents and shale gas leaseholders — who jammed the courtroom of Common Pleas Judge S. Michael Yeager to listen to arguments about whether to dismiss the second personal injury land use case brought by leaseholders, who claim drilling opponents have denied them the ability to make money from the mineral rights they own beneath properties in Middlesex. The gas leaseholder lawsuit seeks more than \$500,000 from opponents, including the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and the Clean Air Council, claiming that they have conspired in a "sham" effort to interfere with gas lease contracts by making false statements to the zoning hearing board and appealing the board's decision to open up 90 percent of the township to drilling. Witold "Vic" Walczak, legal director for the American Civil Liberties Union in Pennsylvania, filed the motion to dismiss the case, arguing, as he did in September in the first lawsuit filed by the leaseholders, that the second one also is a "SLAPP suit." That's a strategic lawsuit against public participation, aimed at silencing, penalizing and chilling participation of individuals and groups engaged in the debate of important public policy issues... Reid Joyce, a Middlesex resident, who described himself as an "observer," not an opponent, said the leaseholder lawsuit has already had a big impact in the rural township. "People are scared to speak out and depressed and reluctant to participate in public meetings, so it's already sort of successful," Mr. Joyce said. "But

if my three kids were still school age, I'd be terrified for them. And if I lived right next to the drill site like some of these people here, I'd be scared to death."

State regulatory review board rejects PUC's net-metering limits A state regulatory review board has struck down limits on how much surplus electricity customers who have their own alternative energy generators, like rooftop solar panels, can sell back to utilities in Pennsylvania. The five-member Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission on Thursday unanimously rejected the caps, which were established by the Public Utility Commission in February after a contentious public rulemaking process. The rules would have limited the amount of electricity a customer can sell to a utility at full retail rates — a process known as net metering — to 200 percent of that customer's annual consumption. At issue was whether the PUC had the legal authority to impose the limits. The review commission rejected the rules because the PUC "could not point to any statutory language or anything from the General Assembly that said they were permitted" to set the 200 percent cap, IRRRC executive director David Sumner said. Net metering was permitted as part of the 2004 Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act, in which legislators set a capacity limit for residential systems at 50 kilowatts. They also capped commercial systems at three megawatts and industrial systems at five megawatts...

### **PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE REVIEW**

Health Department closes Munhall store because of rodent droppings The Allegheny County Health Department closed the Family Dollar in Munhall after an inspector found rodent droppings throughout the store. The health department ordered the Eighth Avenue store to close Wednesday, according to an inspection report. An inspector noticed fresh rodent droppings along the shelves in the front of the store, the back storage room, the women's restroom, in the store office and along the perimeter of the store. The inspector also found a gnawed package of chips and noticed a strong odor of urine in one aisle, according to the report. The health department ordered the store to stay closed until the rodent problem is fixed. A call to the store Thursday night went unanswered...

### **CBS LOCAL PHILADELPHIA**

Senate Democrats Discuss Lead Problems PHILADELPHIA (CBS) — The Flint Michigan water fiasco has started discussions about lead in many cities. In West Philadelphia Thursday, members of the Pennsylvania Senate Democratic Policy Committee held a roundtable discussion about lead exposure with public policy and medical experts. "It is a brain poison," says Dr. Kevin Osterhoudt. And the brain poison known as lead poses the gravest danger to infants living in very old homes. Dr. Osterhoudt told Democratic Senators Vincent Hughes, Anthony Williams and Lisa Boscola that lead is not just a water problem: "Most of the lead that we talk about in Pa. is from the paint and it goes into a dust and the dust is microscopic and you get it on your fingers. And everybody has seen their child who picks anything up from the floor and what's the first thing they do is they stick their finger in their mouth and they like it and so they get that exposure." For Hughes, Democratic Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the discussion was more of a fact-finding mission that he hopes will lead to better ways of reducing the risk: "One of the things that a number of doctors discussed was the fact that if you know communities that are high risk to intervene early. Get into those homes, do the appropriate remediation so that the child is born into a house that is not at risk."

### **WHYY NEWSWORKS PHILADELPHIA**

DEP Offers Bottled Water Near Former Military Base The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection will supply bottled drinking water on an interim basis to residents with confirmed levels of perfluorinated chemicals in the area of the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove, former Naval Air Station Warminster and Air National Guard Horsham. "We are taking precautionary action to ensure all residents in the area are receiving water until we receive further guidance from the EPA on this matter," said Gov. Tom Wolf. The former military bases in the area dispensed the hazardous compounds in the form of heavy-duty firefighting foam, which made its way into groundwater supply. The Navy has already disconnected more than 100 private wells that tested above the Environmental Protection Agency's guidance level for the chemicals. The drinking water for residents who will be receiving the bottled water is now below those levels. However, after conversations with Rep. Todd Stephens of Horsham, Wolf directed DEP to provide bottled water on an interim basis in anticipation of possible revised guidance from the EPA in the near future. The EPA says it will update its recommendation for what is a safe exposure level of some PFCs later this year, following several high profile cases of water contamination. Free bottled water will be available for pickup by residents of Horsham, Warrington and Warminster at the Horsham Community Center, 1025 Horsham Road in Horsham. The water

will be available Thursday until 6 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. DEP staff will be on hand both days to facilitate distribution. Residents will be provided with two cases of water per day.

## **DOYLESTOWN INTELLIGENCER**

Doylestown Township shuts down contaminated well A Doylestown Township well was shut down Thursday because it exceeds new federal drinking water advisories for an unregulated chemical, according to Richard John, executive director of the township's municipal authority. The approximately 200 customers in Plumstead, Buckingham and the Cross Keys section of Doylestown Township who are served by the aptly named Cross Keys well "won't even notice" the change to a new source of water, John said. He said the well largely serves commercial customers. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday issued long-awaited updated advisories for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), two compounds found in firefighting foams and other chemicals. John said the township had been in compliance with its state and federal permits, which did not list the two organic chemicals. "We were definitely meeting our permit. It (PFOA) had not been on any chemical list that governs our permit," the director said. PFOA was first found in the Cross Keys well in 2014, the first year the EPA tested for the chemical, John said. "Had the EPA not looked for it, we wouldn't have known to look at it," he added. None of the authority's other 13 wells tested positive for the chemical in 2014, or tested for it in 2016, when the township conducted its own tests, he noted. The Cross Keys well, which is the shallowest of the authority's wells, at approximately 230 feet, tested at 0.21 parts per billion. At that time, the advisable limits were 0.4 parts per billion for PFOA in drinking water, and 0.2 ppb for PFOS. The chemicals can cause a range of health effects, including a variety of cancers. The largest study on the health effects of PFOA to date was conducted by the C8 Science Panel.

EPA releases new safety advisories for chemicals The Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday released a long-awaited update to its drinking water advisories for unregulated chemicals perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). According to prior testing data of public and private water supplies in Bucks and Montgomery counties, it appears the updated advisories could mean some drinking water in the area is contaminated with the chemicals at a level above what the EPA deems is safe to consume. Officials from both the Horsham Water and Sewer Authority, Warminster Township Authority and Doylestown Township Municipal Authority in Pennsylvania told this news organization Thursday afternoon that they would shut down public drinking water wells contaminated with chemicals above the new recommended levels. The chemicals already had contaminated nine public and about 80 private water wells near a trio of current and former military bases in the region: The former Willow Grove Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Horsham Air Guard Station and former Naval Air Warfare Center in Warminster. The chemicals are suspected to have originated in firefighting foams used at the bases, and the military already has agreed to spend approximately \$19 million to provide replacement water and install filtration systems for public water wells affected by the chemicals, and bottled water and hook-ups to public systems for homes with affected private wells. Up until Thursday, the military had been gauging its response using short-term, provisional health advisories for the chemicals set by the EPA in 2009: 0.4 parts per billion for PFOA in drinking water, and 0.2 ppb for PFOS.

## **EASTON EXPRESS TIMES**

Tests show Allentown schools' water safe, district says The Allentown School District says its drinking water is safe after only three of the 170 water samples taken from district buildings tested positive for lead above the federal action level. The district decided to voluntarily test the water in its buildings after a report on WFMZ-TV 69 asserted water samples from two Allentown schools and Northeast Middle School in Bethlehem showed lead levels above federally set acceptable levels. Both districts independently tested their water and found lead levels below EPA action levels. But it prompted the districts to commit to voluntary water testing of their school buildings. Allentown conducted water testing in all 27 district buildings and found the water lead levels were "well below" the 15 parts per billion federal action level. Three samples came in above that. "The identified fixtures were immediately disabled and removed, and water supply to those fixtures was shut off," the district said in a statement. "New fixtures were installed on the units that remained, subsequent water tests were conducted. The second samples are now well below the EPA acceptable level and the water supply has been turned back on." At Sheridan elementary, two water bubblers were removed and a health clinic faucet was replaced. At Jackson building, an old faculty room sink was replaced and at William Penn, a kitchen sink faucet was replaced. WFMZ tested water at William Allen High School and Union Terrace Elementary School. The tests were conducted by licensed and certified employees of Element Environmental Solutions, Inc., and then tested by a

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection-certified lab. They were done in accordance with all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidelines. The Bethlehem school district's 313 water tests only turned up lead above federal standards 13 times on sinks not used for drinking water...

Erie, Crawford projects receive Growing Greener grants Three projects in Erie County, two in Crawford County and one in Warren County will get a share of 25 million in state grants related to water resources.

## **ERIE TIMES NEWS**

Op-Ed: Gas Industry Provides Good Jobs, Lower Energy Prices This political season continues to defy conventional wisdom, with candidates and elected officials seeking to generate headlines based on half-truths rather than substance and solutions. When it comes to natural gas development -- and the far-reaching environmental, economic and national security benefits it provides for the entire state of Pennsylvania -- those holding and seeking public office should put partisan politics aside and commit to facts and science. Unfortunately, some politicians' rhetoric regarding Pennsylvania's natural gas industry -- which supports tens of thousands of Pennsylvania jobs, many of them for our state's hardworking union members -- flies in the face of the facts. State Sen. Sean Wiley's recent efforts to vilify the natural gas industry and those who work in it ("Erie state senator calls for fracking ban," May 6) is one such example. Let's set the record straight. Oil and natural gas development has occurred safely and benefited the citizens of Pennsylvania for generations. Nowhere is that more true than right here in northwestern Pennsylvania.

Op-Ed: Fracking In Lake Erie Watershed Too Risky, Sen. Wiley ERIE, Pa. -- Earlier this month, I shared with Erie Times-News readers our need for a moratorium on unconventional natural gas drilling in the Lake Erie watershed. I made that determination after a local Senate Policy Committee hearing at which testimony was presented that outlined potential irreparable impact to our watershed area, a risk that is simply too great to take. Pennsylvania plays an important role in the natural gas drilling industry and had seen a boom in job creation, community revitalization and economic impact tied directly to this industry, all facts that cannot be discounted. That being said, the Lake Erie watershed is unique and has to be treated as such in this realm. Unconventional drilling -- or "fracking" -- is much more invasive than conventional gas and oil drilling and requires millions of gallons of water each time a well is fracked. There exists a potential for well leakage directly into our aquifers and the disposal of fracking wastewater into our water system. Seismic activity directly related to drilling has been reported, along with soil contamination, noise pollution, odor complaints and health concerns. There are also proven air-quality issues, and recently released health impact studies indicate a direct correlation between increased incidents of medical diagnosis and individuals with exposure to fracking sites. None of these potential implications can be ignored. This community relies on sources of drinking water from shallow dug wells, deeper drilled wells and surface water sources throughout the watershed. There have been millions of dollars spent over many years to improve the water quality of Presque Isle Bay, moving from a federal Area of Concern designation to an Area of Recovery. Our residents and millions of visitors each year enjoy both Lake Erie and the bay for water activities. Each of us in this area knows the value of Lake Erie for not only its economic impact across the fishing, boating and tourism industries, but also for the quality of life for our residents. It is irresponsible to minimize the potential impact to fresh water and air from the drilling process.

Erie, Crawford Projects Receive Growing Greener Grants Three projects in Erie County, two in Crawford County and one in Warren County will get a share of \$25 million in state grants related to water resources...

## **HARRISBURG PATRIOT NEWS**

Commentary: Environmental Groups Ads Seen As Dem On Dem Crime Do we have serious Democrat-on-Democrat political crime at the state Capitol? Or just a policy difference that refuses to die? This much we do know. A Pennsylvania Senate Democrat is seeking answers from the Wolf administration over whether it had anything to do with issue ads blasting he and a colleague for breaking with the party line on recent environmental votes. Sens. John Yudichak, D-Luzerne County, and John Blake, D-Lackawanna County, were both targeted recently by radio ads financed by the Washington D.C.-based Natural Resources Defense Council. Yudichak was also the subject of critical ads in his hometown newspapers sponsored jointly by PennEnvironment, PennFuture and the Clean Air Council. The critiques addressed April Senate committee votes on natural gas and oil drilling regulations, and Pennsylvania's ongoing development of new state-level greenhouse gas rules despite court stays on the underlying federal mandate. Both Blake and Yudichak, who represent parts of Pennsylvania's anthracite coal region, broke with Democrat orthodoxy and Wolf



Administration wishes to support the a bill that could permit the General Assembly to slow the greenhouse gas work. What they now want to know is whether anyone in the Wolf Administration encouraged the issue ads against them.

Op-Ed: This Isn't The Time To Hit Gas Industry With New Regs When the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee voted to stop new oil and gas regulations, it set the stage for a major standoff between the Pennsylvania legislature and Gov. Tom Wolf. At issue are proposed changes to the Keystone State's rules governing drilling operations. At least one Republican legislator has called the new rules "unlawful," while a Democrat says they are "long overdue." If they are enacted, they would tighten Pennsylvania's oversight of both conventional and unconventional oil and gas wells, and could violate existing law and a state Supreme Court ruling. They also would raise the cost of producing Pennsylvania's shale energy resources, which is precisely the wrong thing to do when oil and natural gas prices are so low. Marcellus Shale natural gas is being sold for less than \$1.50 per million Btu, which is one of the lowest price points in the country. These historically low prices have hurt Pennsylvania's economy. Drilling companies that cannot make a profit have delayed projects and laid-off workers. Dozens of small drilling companies have filed for bankruptcy protection, and by the end of 2015 many large firms watched their stock prices collapse. Early in 2016, energy analyst Fahel Gheit predicted "The second half of 2016 will be very unpleasant for many companies." And it's not just the companies that are getting squeezed. Low energy prices also have reduced the royalty payments received by private mineral-rights owners who have leased their property to drillers.

### **LANCASTER FARMING NEWSPAPERS**

Environment Secretary Lays Out Plan for Inspections EPHRATA, Pa. — Pennsylvania will start inspecting farms in July as part of its reboot of the Chesapeake Bay cleanup. The initial inspections will be simple checks to see if farmers have required erosion and manure plans, but in coming years farmers will have to show that they are following the plans, said John Quigley, Pennsylvania's secretary of environmental protection. If farmers have the plans written and implemented, "we want to stay out of your hair," Quigley said in a May 13 visit to Lancaster Farming's office. The agency released a detailed draft of standard operating procedures for the inspections last week. Any farm required to have erosion or manure management plans can be inspected, but Quigley said he wants to focus the visits on places where they will make the most difference, such as impaired watersheds. The largest livestock farms, concentrated animal feeding operations, will continue to be inspected according to existing requirements and will not be included in the initial bay inspections. CAFOs "don't appear to be a problem" for water quality, Quigley said. Farmers can avoid an initial inspection by submitting their plans to inspectors. Quigley said he hopes farmers will do this proactively. "We want to make compliance easy," he said. If a selected farmer does not submit plans, an inspector will schedule a visit...

Cooperate With Bay Inspectors, Attorneys Say WINTERSTOWN, Pa. — Having an inspector visit your farm may not be the most comfortable experience, but it need not be confrontational. "Be as cooperative as you can with these folks," said Martin Siegel, an attorney at the Stock and Leader law firm. Siegel and his colleague Sarah Doyle explained the Chesapeake Bay farm inspection process to York County farmers on May 11 at the North Hopewell-Winterstown Volunteer Fire Company. The inspections are part of Pennsylvania's reboot of its Chesapeake Bay cleanup, launched in January. DEP plans to have 10 percent of the farms in the watershed inspected each year. In most cases, conservation district employees will perform the initial inspections. In counties where conservation districts refuse to take on this role, DEP inspectors will visit the farms. In the first round, inspectors will check to make sure farms have the required written plans, such as nutrient management, and erosion and sedimentation plans. Farmers can get out of the first round of inspections by submitting their plans when DEP requests them in writing. That's the best strategy, Siegel said. If farmers do not submit the documents, an inspector will call to schedule a time to visit. "Do not ignore a communication from DEP" and hope it will go away, said Siegel, who spent two decades as an assistant counsel at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, or DEP. The agency will eventually follow up with you, he said. Farmers do have the right to ask an inspector to get a warrant before inspecting the farm, but "use common sense," Siegel said. Farmers may not want to annoy a person who has the power to fine them. A farmer will likely be dealing with the same inspector for several years. If that person thinks the farmer is a bad actor, the inspection could be expanded beyond the plans, Siegel said...

### **MONTGOMERY LANSDALE PATCH**

Wissahickon Headwaters Projects Gets \$369K Great news for Wissahickon-lovers: the state is investing \$369,000 in a stream and riparian restoration project. The project is one of 114 in the state to receive a total of \$25,143,294 in funding



from Department of Environmental Protection. "The selected projects enhance watersheds, mitigate acid mine drainage, and support water pollution cleanup programs," the state said in an announcement. "The Growing Greener program, and this year's funding, is an investment in our future and proof that when state government works collaboratively, we achieve long-lasting results," said Governor Wolf. "The Environmental Stewardship Fund has helped spark innovation and coordinate partnerships to tackle some of the most challenging environmental issues in our state." The grant awards are made possible by the Growing Greener Grant Program, the largest single investment of state funds that address Pennsylvania's environmental concerns. Growing Greener encourages partnerships between counties, municipalities, county conservation districts, watershed organizations, and other organizations to restore and protect the environment.

## **WILKES-BARRE CITIZENS VOICE**

DCNR, Homeowners Fight Back Against Gypsy Moths PLAINS TWP. — Charlotte Hendershot sees the first signs of the gypsy moth from her porch in the Hudson section of Plains. Small caterpillars, about an inch long, occasionally wind their way along her patio. On a neighbor's tree are remnants of an empty egg mass. Last year, gypsy moth caterpillars ate the leaves from trees in her neighborhood. "I don't want to have another summer like last year," she said. Hendershot is planning to contact someone to spray her trees in an attempt to kill gypsy moths, which defoliated trees in Luzerne County last year. She said a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources spraying program, administered by Luzerne County, was too expensive. It's unclear if she would even have qualified based on the size and condition of her property. In any case, it is too late to join the county spraying program, which notified landowners about their spraying status in February. The DCNR has begun its spraying program. The agency has sprayed from Huntingdon County, in the south central part of the state, to Northampton County, on the border with New Jersey. As the foliage and larval development move forward, the DCNR plans to move with it, spraying a biological pesticide when caterpillars are young and it is most effective. Spraying in Luzerne, Lackawanna and Wyoming counties, as well as other parts of Northeastern Pennsylvania, is planned. The DCNR has already begun spraying some parts of Luzerne County with a helicopter, said Keri Skvarla, the county engineer coordinating the gypsy moth program. Spraying may continue through the weekend and through next week. The state's program is intended to reduce forest defoliation to less than 30 percent, not to kill every caterpillar. Reducing the amount of leaves the insects eat will help the trees maintain long-term health. The DCNR approved spraying for about 3,200 acres of private residential land in the county. That's far from the total amount of forested land in the county. Luzerne County contains about 370,000 acres of forested land, according to a Penn State report. Property had to meet DCNR acreage and environmental criteria for spraying.

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## **WASHINGTON, D.C.**

### **WASHINGTON POST**

The expiration dates on our food could be contributing to a huge environmental problem The date labels printed on the food we buy — often accompanied by a "best by," "use by" or even "expires on" stamp — are meant to provide useful advice about when a product is at its best. But some experts are saying these labels not only fail to communicate meaningful information to consumers — they may actually be contributing to a huge environmental problem by inadvertently encouraging people to throw out perfectly good food. A new survey, released last week by the Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic, found that more than a third of respondents usually or always throw away food that's past its date label. And 84 percent of respondents reported doing so occasionally. The problem with this behavior is that date labels rarely indicate the actual safety of a food product — rather, they tend to reflect estimates of when it will be at its peak quality or taste its best. This means that large volumes of safe food are being needlessly thrown away each year.

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## **DELAWARE**

### **WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL**

Residents ignore warnings, try to find black bear Dozens of people in the Newark area spent most of Thursday afternoon walking, driving, hiking and scouring the area on the trail of a black bear, even though they were warned not to. Police

and University of Delaware officials issued a warning to stay away from the bear, but many were wandering the streets, pathways and wooded areas near the campus in search of the animal. Most just wanted to get a look at an animal not seen in Delaware for a couple hundred years. Sydney Slatko was driving her Mini Cooper convertible in the hope of seeing the animal, basically because she said she didn't have much else to do. "It's exciting and they told us not to," Slatko said, explaining why she was defying the officials. She added that she wasn't sure what she would do if she saw it. There were two other young women in the car with her, all of whom were eager to get searching. Officials believe it is the same animal that rummaged through trash cans, trampled through gardens and knocked over a homeowner's beehive Wednesday in Hockessin and Pike Creek. A man who would identify himself only as Wolf was carrying a small camera, searching for the beast off Cleveland Avenue near wooded trails. He was not hopeful he would get a glimpse. "There are too many two-legged animals that have scared it away," he said. A group of young men stood on the porch of a house on White Clay Road watching the small, scattered crowd search for the animal. The group, some of whom held BB guns and a bow, taunted the searchers. "There's a bear over here. I see the bear."...

Cold, wet May dampens crop forecasts Cold, wet May dampens crop forecastsSoggy fields hamper farm work, some fruits won't be as sweet or plentiful...

## **DELAWARE CAPE GAZETTE**

Volunteers and boats sought for Inland Bays cleanup June 11The Delaware Center for the Inland Bays is seeking volunteers and boats for the 11th Annual Inland Bays Clean-Up from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, June 11. The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control once again is lending support through the Division of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Section, along with the Division of Parks and Recreation. Registration for the cleanup will take place at Massey's Landing Public Boat Ramp at the end of Long Neck Road, and the effort will be concentrated on the Rehoboth Bay and Indian River Bay areas. Volunteers should dress to get dirty and be prepared for cooler conditions on the water as well as wet walking conditions on land. Rubber boots are also suggested...

Editorial: Route 1 improvements not automatic win A recent Cape Gazette article reported Gov. Jack Markell's concern about the increasing number of pedestrian fatalities in Delaware. While the state has risen rapidly in rankings of bicycle-friendly states, the rate of pedestrian deaths places Delaware in an unenviable position among the nation's most pedestriandangerous states. At this point in 2016, overall highway-related deaths in Delaware are running more than 25 percent ahead of this time in 2015.Part of the increase in pedestrian deaths comes from upstate, where people attempt to cross major highways on foot. A few years back, however, it was pedestrian deaths in the Coastal Highway area of Sussex that led the statistics. Improvements along Coastal Highway between Nassau and Dewey Beach have created a safer environment for cyclists and walkers... Safety success will also depend on walkers and cyclists using designated crosswalks and following the rules of the road. Just this week, a cyclist was charged after riding into the path of a northbound motorist at the Route 1 and Dartmouth Drive intersection. Police say the cyclist wasn't riding where cyclists are supposed to ride and failed to use proper hand signals. All the improvements in the world won't work if drivers, walkers and cyclists don't observe the rules and take advantage of what's been provided to make their travels safer.

Letter: Trash on our beaches is appalling I just took my parents who are visiting from Maine over to Broadkill Beach to show them the new sand dunes and all the work the state had put in to expand the shoreline. Just over the dune we spotted several empty beer bottles and trash just beyond the fence barrier. Really? It's bad enough to see a ton of trash on the sides of our roads but must we contend with constant litter once we leave our door? I think I will start to carry a box of garbage bags with me and continue to scoop this mess up when I see it. Bottom line - if you litter, you simply don't deserve to be on our beaches, whether you are local or just visiting.

Baymart hearing set for May 23 Rehoboth Beach — Plans for a 63-unit housing development on the edge of Rehoboth Beach stalled when the developer failed to obtain building permits. Developer Ocean Bay Mart LLC has appealed the city building inspector's decision to deny permits to the board of adjustment. A hearing on the case is set for 7 p.m., Monday, May 23, at Rehoboth fire hall. The 7.75-acre property on Route 1 is zoned C-1 commercial. Plans show 58 single-family homes and five multifamily condos. Ocean Bay Mart does not plan to subdivide the property, meaning homeowners will not own the land on which their homes are built. Building inspector Dam Molina said he turned the project down because regulations for the C-1 district state that no more than one main building may be erected on the lot. Multiple single-family detached dwellings are prohibited, Molina said. He said a variance is required for the

development of multiple single-family detached dwellings in the C-1 district. "The project does not comply," Molina said...

### **DELAWARE PUBLIC MEDIA (NPR)**

Bear sightings in Delaware rare, most likely from surrounding states Recent sightings of black bears in northern Delaware have sparked our curiosity: what brings it – or them – here? The black bear – or bears – spotted in the Pike Creek and Newark areas are most likely young males that have wandered into the First State from Pennsylvania, Maryland or New Jersey, says DNREC's Wildlife Administrator Robert Hossler. These areas have growing black bear populations, and male black bears are known to wander around this time of year since it's mating season. He says mating season for black bears is from around Memorial Day to July, with June and July being peak breeding times. Surrounding states have habitats more conducive to black bears, with berries – a critical part of the black bear diet – abundant in Pennsylvania and Maryland. Hossler says Delaware's corn crops could be enticing to black bears, but would still leave them wanting more. "We just have a very fragmented agricultural, suburban landscape," Hossler said. "We don't have any mountainous or dense forested regions compared to our surrounding states. Even New Jersey has sections – in the Northern part – that are more remote." ...

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## **WEST VIRGINIA**

### **CHARLESTON GAZETTE-MAIL**

'Do not drink' advised for Vienna water after EPA issues C8 guidance Three West Virginia communities are changing their water sources after the federal Environmental Protection Agency released Thursday a new national standard for C8, a chemical that for years contaminated the drinking water of Wood County communities and is linked to cancer, thyroid disease and dangerously high blood pressure in pregnant women. The EPA's move caused immediate action, as West Virginia regulators on Thursday advised Vienna residents not to drink or cook with their water, based on test results over the past couple of years. "The Bureau for Public Health is working with the town of Vienna to implement appropriate precautions, which will include a 'Do Not Drink' advisory until additional testing and evaluation takes place," said Dr. Rahul Gupta, commissioner of the state Bureau for Public Health. "The Department of Health and Human Resources and the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety will assist those affected by the EPA's advisory, and the state will assist in securing installation of new filters. "Two other public water systems in West Virginia, located in Parkersburg and Martinsburg, were also affected by the new EPA thresholds. They have taken immediate action by using additional water sources to provide water." All three cities got their water through groundwater sources, or wells, said Walt Ivey, an environmental health official with the DHHR. Parkersburg and Martinsburg both had additional wells with lower levels of contamination, so they were able to turn off the chemically contaminated sources and residents should see no changes in their water service, Ivey said. The EPA's health advisory set a level of 70 parts per trillion of C8 in drinking water, saying chemical levels below that standard are "not expected to result in adverse health effects over a lifetime of exposure." Baseline testing required by the EPA and done in 2014 and 2015 had found chemical levels below a previous provisional health advisory but above the new advisory, Ivey said.

South Charleston moves to rezone parcel for commercial development South Charleston Council has given preliminary approval to a rezoning request that would make way for a new commercial development along Jefferson Road.

### **WTAP-TV NEWSCENTER - PARKERSBURG**

Update: MOV Health Department releases recommendations for hotels & restaurants (Multiple videos on C8 issue)  
**Vienna, W.Va. (WTAP)** - Update: 5/19/206 11:25 -- Thursday evening, health officials visited hotels and restaurants in Vienna and Boaz to advise those businesses what they need to be doing to keep you safe. While the water is not safe, in those two cities, to drink, it's okay to use to bath and wash dishes. Here's a list of other things that the Mid- Ohio Valley Health Department says that the restaurants and hotels, as well as you, are advised \*not\* to do.

Water should not be used for:

Food preparation

Ice machines

Drink machines - coffee and tea makers

Fruit and vegetables misters in stores

Washing fruits and vegetables

Water fountains.

Hotels are also being asked to provide bottled water to people to use to brush their teeth. The MOV Health Department does say the water is safe for restaurants to use to wash dishes and equipment in three bowl sinks, in dishwashers and for hand washing.

## **WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC BROADCASTING**

Drinking Water Warnings Issued for Parkersburg, Martinsburg, Vienna UPDATE: A representative from the Martinsburg Water Department said residents should feel safe to drink their tap water. The water department has shut off the intake at Big Springs Water Filtration Plant, which is contaminated with C-8, and switched over to a larger plant. Kilmer Springs Water Filtration Plant in Martinsburg, is the main plant cleaning the city's water. Testing is underway until the issue is resolved.

ORIGINAL POST: The Federal Environmental Protection Agency issued a drinking water advisory today for the carcinogenic chemical commonly referred to as C-8. Several municipalities in the state have C-8 in their tap water at higher levels than the federal guidelines suggest is safe, leaving city and state officials strategizing on what to do next. Vienna is one town in West Virginia struggling with how to manage chemical contamination in municipal water supplies. The town sits within close proximity to DuPont, a chemical company with a history of environmental contamination problems. City officials say C-8 exists at .1 part per billion in water supplies today. But the new federal advisory says in order for drinking water to be considered safe, levels should be lower than .07 parts per billion. Some people say that even that level is dangerous, especially if you live with the contamination every day. "It is not in line with the latest scientific recommendations by renown toxicologists who said there ought to be no more than .001 parts per billion," said Dr. Paul Brooks, a resident in Vienna and an advisory member of an activist group called Keep Your Promises DuPont. He also said filtration systems need to be put in place immediately. "And who needs to pay for that is DuPont because they are the ones who contaminated the environment up here," he added.

## **WEST VIRGINIA METRO NEWS**

Federal EPA warns of high chemical levels in Martinsburg, Parkersburg and Vienna water sources

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The federal EPA announced Thursday that water sources in Martinsburg, Parkersburg and Vienna contain the chemicals PFOA and PFOS at levels higher than previously recommended for public water systems. A 'do not drink' advisory was put in place for Vienna residents by state regulators. U.S. Sens. Joe Manchin and Shelley Moore Capito issued the following statement regarding the announcement: "We're very concerned for the residents of Martinsburg, Parkersburg and Vienna in light of the new drinking water advisory issued by the EPA. Our first and number one priority is to ensure these residents have safe and clean drinking water. We have been in contact with the EPA, state and local officials, and the National Guard, and we will continue to monitor the situation closely." PFOA and PFOS are fluorinated organic chemicals that are part of a larger group of chemicals referred to as perfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS's, according to an EPA facts sheet. The fact sheet says that the chemicals have been used to make carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food and other materials that are resistant to water, grease or stains. Because these chemicals have been used in so many consumer products and household items, most people have been exposed to them, according to the EPA.

## **WSAZ-TV - HUNTINGTON**

Do not drink advisory issued for citizens of Vienna WOOD COUNTY, W.Va. (WSAZ) -- The Bureau for Public health has reviewed new information regarding PFOA and PFOS that the U.S. EPA released Thursday, and have decided to issue a Do Not Drink advisory for citizens of Vienna until additional testing and evaluation takes place. According to Drema Mace of the Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department, the levels in the city of Vienna's water source are just slightly above the limit, and will require additional testing. Mace says the water

is fine for use in restrooms, hand-washing, and bathing. C8 is a chemical that is used in manufacture process of Teflon and is also used in stain and water resistant coatings for fabric and carpets. The chemical used to be manufactured at the DuPont Plant in the Mid-Ohio Valley and has been a controversial subject and the topic of lawsuits over the years. Mace says the Health Department is working with local restaurants and helping them to post signs letting citizens know the restaurants are using portable water to cook food. According to Dr. Rahul Gupta, state health officer and commissioner for the Bureau for Public Health, the Department of Health and Human Resources and the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety will assist those affected by the EPA's advisory, and the state will assist in securing installation of new activated carbon filters for the water system. Two other public water systems in West Virginia, located in Parkersburg and Martinsburg, were also affected by the new EPA thresholds. They have taken immediate action by using additional water sources to provide water.

### **HUNTINGTON NEWS.NET**

EPA's new drinking water health advisory for C-8 is a step in the right direction but falls short of protecting human health PARKERSBURG, WV – Responding to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's announcement of a drinking water health advisory for C-8 of 0.07 parts per billion, Dr. Paul Brooks released the following statement on behalf of Keep Your Promises DuPont: "EPA's guideline is a step in the right direction, but it is insufficient to protect people's health from the harmful effects of C-8 exposure, which include testicular cancer, kidney cancer, ulcerative colitis, and other serious illnesses. If EPA wants to protect us from C-8, the guideline for long term exposure must be lowered to 0.001 parts per billion, the threshold the latest science on the chemical determines is safe. "EPA must set a legally enforceable standard that will protect the millions of Americans drinking C-8-contaminated water. This guideline falls short of that goal. "Meanwhile, my family, my friends, and my neighbors across the mid-Ohio Valley are still drinking water contaminated with C-8 at levels exceeding this guideline. For example, in my community of Vienna, West Virginia, the water is contaminated above this level. This is unacceptable, and given this new guideline, our water must be filtered immediately." -- About Keep Your Promises Keep Your Promises is a community-based organization dedicated to holding DuPont to the promises it made to the people of the Greater Mid-Ohio Valley in connection to the company's contamination with the chemical C-8. The organization was developed in partnership with the Action Network Fund, a nonprofit organization that empowers citizens to stand up for their communities and their livelihoods in the face of corporate abuse.

### **ASSOCIATED PRESS (W. Va.)**

Corps of Engineers offering tours of Marmet Locks and Dam HUNTINGTON, W.Va. (AP) - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is offering public tours at the Marmet Locks and Dam in Belle, West Virginia on June 4 in observation of National Dam Safety Awareness Day. Tours will be offered from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. that day, and participants can meet at the Operations Building. Reservations are not required. Cameras are not permitted. A news release from the Corps of Engineers says the tours will explain why and how the locks were built, how the dam is operated and the benefits the project brings to the local area.

Charleston Dips Below 50,000 Population West Virginia no longer has a city above 50,000 in population. U.S. Census estimates released Thursday show Charleston dipped below the threshold last year. The state's largest city had an estimated population of 49,736, down 590 residents from the year before.

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## **MARYLAND**

### **BALTIMORE SUN**

Editorial: Hope for the Chesapeake Bay We'll admit there are times that efforts to preserve and protect the health of the Chesapeake Bay feel a bit like mythology's Sisyphus and his rock. Just when you think the job is tough but possible, it all rolls back down the hill — another fish kill, another sewage spill, another protest staged by people opposed to curbing

polluted runoff from streets or farm fields. But then there are also those moments when it's clear that the Chesapeake Bay is not beyond salvation and the efforts to date are not in vain. Such is the all-too-fleeting joy of a "C" on the latest report card from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. That may not sound like a reason to rejoice — many high schoolers with similar grades for 2015 likely faced somewhat less happy conversations with their guardians — but in this context, it actually is a hopeful sign. Recent report cards have hovered in the "D" range. The bay hasn't scored this high in 13 years. Only twice — in 1992 and 2002 — has it fared as well in the 30-year history of the report card, and those were years of drought....That's not to suggest it's time to break open the champagne and toast the improving fortunes of the nation's largest estuary. There are still too many serious issues facing the region, including those who would love nothing more than to see the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency dismantled and its Total Maximum Daily Load — the "pollution diet" for the Chesapeake Bay that expects ever greater water quality advances in the years ahead — tossed into the ash can. Still, maybe the achievement deserves a sip or two. Let's take a tip from various public school systems and celebrate an improved performance if not an actual "A" or "B." After all, the punishment handed to Sisyphus was not simply hard labor, it was for him to see that all his efforts were useless. That's clearly not the case with the Chesapeake Bay, and it does no harm to remind ourselves of that hopeful reality once in a while.

### **ANNAPOLIS CAPITAL GAZETTE**

Editorial: Report card brings good news on the bay Since when is a C on a report card good news? When it occurs in the evaluation of the Chesapeake Bay by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, which has generally assigned D's during its three decades of doing this annual assessment. The 53 percent score for 2015 — up from 45 percent in 2013 and 50 percent in 2014 — was one of the three highest since 1986. And those previous high scores — in 1992 and 2002 — were in years in which major droughts kept polluted runoff out of the bay. By contrast, 2015 had typical weather. That makes the score a sign that the state's efforts to control runoff and clean up sewer plant emissions are having an effect. Chesapeake Bay Program Director Nick DiPasquale noted that "we've had over two centuries of environmental assaults on this ecosystem" and the bay watershed's population has doubled, to 18 million, since 1950. "It's a fantasy to think we can turn it around in two or three decades." Nonetheless, as DiPasquale also said, the latest findings indicate progress at "building resiliency back" into the ecosystem. Specifically, the report found that key fish populations such as blue crab and striped bass remain healthy, and there were improvements in water clarity and aquatic grass growth...

### **CHESAPEAKE BAY JOURNAL**

Fearsome 'frankenfish' now called 'pork of the Potomac' As snakeheads' reach expands, some anglers see the invasive species as a catch worth keeping. The northern snakehead was already starring in horror films like "Frankenfish" and "Snakehead Terror" by the time it showed up in the Potomac River in 2004. They didn't have to be blockbusters to send the message: This fish is to be feared. A native of China, the *Channa argus* had been snagging national headlines about the havoc it would wreak since it was first discovered in a Crofton, MD, pond in 2002. It could eat everything around and then walk overland to another water body to do it again. Or so the rap went. Since then, snakeheads have proliferated and spread like wildfire, as many had feared. But, along the way, their fearsome reputation has softened some, at least among recreational anglers who've found they're fun to catch and not bad tasting either. "It was set up to be the poster child for all invasives, because it had this fierce name and teeth," said John Odenkirk, fisheries biologist with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. "Many of us never subscribed to the initial hysteria, but we've been battling it ever since."

Celebrate 100 years of bird conservation by helping migratory species May is an explosive month. As the landscape greens up and trees and flowers blossom, there is an explosion of worms, spiders and insects. And right on their heels are migratory birds — species that travel from one place to another at regular times, often over long distances. Many migratory birds nest in the northern United States, Canada and the Arctic. Because these birds eat insects or food that aren't available in winter, they migrate to southern states, South and Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean in the winter. When spring returns to North America, so do the birds as they follow their food to their breeding grounds. Most long-distance migratory songbirds and shorebirds migrate at night when the air is cooler and calmer and predators are few. Birds that fly by soaring, like hawks and vultures, migrate by day when the sun's rays produce rising air currents for them to glide on. Swallows, swifts and nighthawks also migrate by day because they eat flying insects that are active at that time...

## **EASTON STAR DEMOCRAT**

Report positive on oyster restoration EASTON — People interested in the oyster restoration work in the Choptank River complex can check out a report released this month by the Maryland Oyster Restoration Interagency Workgroup that details the effort's progress. In Harris Creek, which was the center of a controversy over the effectiveness of oyster sanctuaries, the report indicates oysters are meeting target numbers for success. Since work started to build oyster sanctuaries in the Choptank River complex in 2011, nearly 400 acres of oyster restoration has been completed, with about 118 acres that await seeding or are partly seeded, according to the report. A total of 2.3 billion oysters, the vast majority of which were grown by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Sciences Horn Point Laboratory in Cambridge, have been planted, the report reads. Oyster restoration is being targeted in three parts of the Choptank River complex — Harris Creek, the Little Choptank River and the Tred Avon River. While there are multiple factors that determine whether an oyster reef has been restored, Stephanie Westby, an oyster coordinator and environmental engineer with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, said "probably the one that is most intuitive and people are most interested in is how many oysters are living" on the reefs.

## **HAGERSTOWN HERALD MAIL**

Martinsburg shuts down water plant after EPA advisory MARTINSBURG, W.Va. — The city of Martinsburg shut down its Big Springs water-filtration plant for testing and evaluation Thursday after federal regulators announced tighter guidelines for human exposure to an industrial chemical used in such consumer products as nonstick pans, stain-resistant carpets and microwave-popcorn bags. The cancer-causing chemical perfluorooctanoic acid, known as PFOA, has been found in the tap water of dozens of towns near industrial sites where it was manufactured. Also at issue is the related chemical perfluorooctane sulfonate, or PFOS, which is used in firefighting foam. Before the Environmental Protection Agency issued its health advisory Thursday, the Big Springs plant on U.S. 11 had been in full compliance, city officials said in a news release. The most recent test of the water supply for the city's other filtration plant at Kilmer Springs was found to be free of the chemicals and will be able to supply the city's water customers, city Utilities Director Steve Knipe said. An emergency city council meeting is scheduled for today at 10 a.m. at City Hall at 232 N. Queen St. about the EPA advisory. County, state and federal officials have been invited to attend, according to the release. DuPont, 3M and other U.S. chemical companies voluntarily phased out the use of PFOA in recent years, according to The Associated Press...

## **ASSOCIATED PRESS (Md.)**

Drowning history: Sea level rise threatens US historic sites With scientists forecasting sea levels to rise by anywhere from several inches to several feet by 2100, historic structures and coastal heritage sites around the world are under threat. Some sites and artifacts could become submerged. Scientists, historic preservationists, architects and public officials met in April in Newport, R.I. — one of the threatened areas — to discuss the problem, how to adapt to rising seas and preserve historic structures. "Any coastal town that has significant historic properties is going to be facing the challenge of protecting those properties from increased water and storm activity," said Margot Nishimura, of the Newport Restoration Foundation, the nonprofit group that hosted the conference. Federal authorities have encouraged people to elevate structures in low-lying areas, but that poses challenges in dense neighborhoods of centuries-old homes built around central brick chimneys, Nishimura said, especially ones where preservationists are trying to keep the character intact. Many of the most threatened sites in North America lie along the East Coast between Cape Hatteras, N.C., and southern Maine, where the rate of sea level rise is among the fastest in the world, said Adam Markham, of the Union of Concerned Scientists, a speaker at the conference. "We're actually not going to be able to save everything," he said. A look at some of the historic areas and cultural sites that are under threat from rising sea levels: Annapolis -- Maryland's capital, on Chesapeake Bay, boasts the nation's largest concentration of 18th-century brick buildings. The city briefly served as the nation's capital in the post-Revolutionary War period, and the Treaty of Paris, which formally ended the war, was ratified there. The city is also home to the U.S. Naval Academy. The city already sees tidal flooding dozens of times a year, and scientists have predicted number could rise to hundreds annually in the next 30 years...

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# VIRGINIA



## **ROANOKE TIMES**

Study backed by Mountain Valley Pipeline opponents suggests negative economic impacts for region Grace Terry's calculation of the potential economic costs for her family of the Mountain Valley Pipeline requires no sophisticated formula for estimating the value of an ecosystem. For Terry, a sixth-generation landowner on Poor Mountain and Bent Mountain in Roanoke County, the calculation is visceral. She said the 42-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline and related access roads would bespoil wildlife habitat, including forest, pasture and complex wetlands, springs and trout streams. "The pipeline would devalue and destroy ours and our neighbors' agricultural and livestock operations, homes, barns and studios — the interdependent fabric of our small community," Terry said. A pipeline rupture likely would kill or severely injure her family, she said. On Wednesday, eight county-based groups in Virginia and West Virginia and an alliance of organizations opposing the pipeline released a report that suggests it would have significant negative economic repercussions for the region. The study, prepared by Charlottesville-based Key-Log Economics and commissioned by pipeline opponents, examines the potential for adverse economic impacts of the proposed pipeline and its right-of-way on forests, croplands, streams, drinking water, scenic views, property values, tourism, economic development and more. The report suggests that although the pipeline's economic benefits have been touted in support of the project, "no systematic consideration of the potential negative economic effects — economic costs — of the MVP has been completed."

## **NEWPORT NEWS DAILY PRESS**

Virginia Institute of Marine Science hold annual Marine Science Day GLOUCESTER — Rain or shine, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science will hold its annual Marine Science Day on Saturday. The 14th annual event opens the Gloucester campus up for a day of exhibits, hands-on displays, talks, tours, demonstrations and activities — including a costume contest. "It give us the opportunity to share with the community here and the larger community of Hampton Roads what we are doing in this area and around the world and show people why it's important," VIMS director of outreach Susan Maples said. "For young people this can really be an inspiration and open doors in their minds letting them see this is an option in life. Showing them the exciting things to do that are important to the health of the bay and important to all of us." This year's theme is "Sounds of the Sea," Maples said. The sounds sea critters make will be featured in children's activities and a 10-minute "fast talk" lecture by professor Sarah Huber. Opportunities for hands-on experiences will be available at exhibits like Wondrous Wiggly Bottom Dwellers hosted by marine scientist Jennifer Deryer. Deryer manages VIMS' research lab and invertebrate collection and has participated in Marine Science Day for 12 years. "I really enjoy what I do here at VIMS and I enjoy sharing it with people, from the small kids to the big kids," Deryer said. "We share our work, talk about the animals, and make a connection for people so that they have more of a vested interest in their environment. They will see these things when they are out and about and be able to connect it with what they have learned."...

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# MISCELLANEOUS

## **EPA MID-ATLANTIC HEALTHY WATERS BLOG**

Why I Love Wetlands (By Carol Petrow) May is American Wetlands Month which makes it a perfect time to talk about a passion of mine. Wetlands are the vital link between land and water. What is not to love about them? EPA proclaims that "Wetlands are natural wonderlands of great value." My sentiments exactly! They provide important benefits to people and the environment by regulating water levels within watersheds, reducing flood and storm damage, improving water quality, providing important fish and wildlife habitat, and supporting educational and recreational activities...

## **THE EPA BLOG**

Science Guides Public Health Protection for Drinking Water (By Joel Beauvais) As a country, we've come a long way toward providing clean air, water, and land — essential resources that support healthy, productive lives. But we have more work to do to make sure that every American has access to safe drinking water. That's why EPA launched a concerted engagement effort with key partners and stakeholders — including state, tribal and local governments, drinking water utilities, and public health, environmental and community stakeholders — to develop and implement a national action plan to address critical drinking water challenges and opportunities. As always, our work to protect

public health and the environment must consistently be built on a foundation of sound science and data. When it comes to drinking water, scientific information helps us identify pollutants of concern – including new or emerging contaminants – assess potential health impacts, and understand the steps needed to address them.

Learn, Explore and Take Action During American Wetlands Month! May marks the 26th anniversary of American Wetlands Month, a time when EPA and our wetland partners across the country celebrate the vital importance of wetlands to our ecological, economic, and social health. EPA and a host of other public and private partners planned a number of events as part of this year's celebration. Here are a few highlights:

## **BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

EPA Issues Voluntary Drinking Water Health Advisories for PFOS, PFOA The EPA releases benchmarks to guide local water systems, states and others in determining what concentration levels of certain highly fluorinated chemicals in drinking water are safe for public health. The EPA set the same voluntary benchmark—0.07 micrograms per liter or 70 parts per trillion—in its two lifetime drinking water health advisories on perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA).

Lawmakers Ready Final Push to Get TSCA Reform Done After months of bicameral negotiations, lawmakers announce they have effectively reached an agreement to overhaul the nation's primary industrial chemicals law. Nearly a dozen Democratic and Republican senators say they intend to pass legislation to overhaul the Toxic Substances Control Act before departing for a week-long break at the end of the month. Legislation to revamp TSCA will receive a House vote next week, says a spokesman for Majority Leader McCarthy.

Clean Power Plan Driving Renewables, Limiting Coal: Report The EPA's Clean Power Plan boosts the projected growth in renewable generation while driving down demand for electricity, says the North American Electric Reliability Corp. The group finds the rule will help drive investment in between 10 gigawatts and 20 gigawatts of new wind and solar generation by 2030, while coal power will decline by up to 27 gigawatts during that period.

Regulatory Agenda: EPA Plans New Pollinator Data, Chemical Rules

The EPA plans to propose a new regulation before President Obama leaves office that could require pesticide makers to begin submitting more data to the agency on how their products affect pollinators. Currently, the EPA can request pollinator data on an as-needed basis if it determines there is some concern a pesticide may harm the crucial insects. This regulation would formalize exactly what types of data companies would need to submit for certain types of chemicals.

## **GREENWIRE**

CLEAN POWER PLAN: Dorsey & Whitney's Rubin says D.C. Circuit decision likely to affect arguments Following the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit's surprise decision this week to push Clean Power Plan arguments to September before the full court, how are parties involved in the case shifting strategies in light of the broader review? During today's OnPoint, James Rubin, a partner at Dorsey & Whitney, discusses the impact of the court's decision on the power plan's legal timeline and prospects for the case overall.

CLIMATE: Rising seas bring humans, tigers into conflict Climate change may displace both park rangers and Bengal tigers in a remote stretch of the world's largest mangrove forest on the border of India and Bangladesh. Some experts also believe the changing climate will lead to more tiger attacks in the Sundarbans region. Bittu Sahgal, a conservationist and editor of *Sanctuary Asia* magazine, said every high tide washes away more land in the area. "Tigers, people -- everybody gets squeezed into smaller land areas," Sahgal said. "When fields and farms and residential areas get completely unusable and people try to move into tiger habitats, there is an inevitable clash going to take place. People will die. Tigers will die"

PESTICIDES: Bayer moves to take over Monsanto Bayer AG has approached Monsanto Co. regarding a takeover bid that would combine two of the world's largest crop seeds and pesticides companies, the firms confirmed. Monsanto said in a statement that it had received "an unsolicited, non-binding proposal" for an acquisition. Bayer confirmed that its executives had met with Monsanto leaders to discuss a deal that would "create a leading integrated agriculture

business."

## **ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Mine environmental risk grows with bankruptcies in big coal CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) - As more coal companies file for bankruptcy, it's increasingly likely that taxpayers will be stuck with the very high costs of preventing abandoned mines from becoming environmental disasters. The question is not if, but when, where and how many more coal mines will close as the industry declines, analysts say. Many mines already operate at a loss, and there's not enough money in the fuel anymore to enable their owners to keep their promises to clean up the land. "It's sort of a situation where nobody, really, is going to end up looking good," said James Stevenson, director of North American coal for analyst firm IHS. "The states have I think a significant risk - the federal government does as well." This reclamation crisis looms because of a practice called self-bonding, which allows coal companies to promise to eventually cover the cost of cleaning up abandoned mines without first setting aside the necessary money. Because of self-bonding, billions of dollars in legally required reclamation funding exist only as IOUs, without dedicated assets or bonds backed by third-party investors. Nationwide, self-bonding in the coal-mining industry tops \$3.3 billion. That includes \$2.3 billion in IOUs that the three biggest bankrupt coal companies - Alpha Natural Resources, Arch Coal and Peabody - owe in five states, according to an Associated Press analysis of bonding obligations in the top 16 coal-mining states. The dilemma for state and federal regulators got even bleaker when the nation's largest coal producer, Peabody, filed for Chapter 11 protection from its creditors in April. Peabody alone holds more than \$1.1 billion in self-bonding obligations for mines in Illinois, Indiana, New Mexico and Wyoming, where its North Antelope Rochelle mine produces almost 12 percent of the nation's coal...In Richmond, Virginia, Judge Kevin R. Huennekens is considering Alpha's proposal to transfer its "crown jewel" mines in Wyoming to creditors and close its unprofitable mines in West Virginia. Alpha's self-bonding obligations total \$410 million in Wyoming and \$243 million in West Virginia. The company's plan would leave a reorganized Alpha without a reliable profit stream to address reclamation in West Virginia, the state's attorneys told the judge in April. An Alpha spokesman didn't return a request for comment, while spokespeople for Arch and Peabody emphasized their companies' commitment to reclamation that occurs as part of day-to-day coal mining operations. Peabody is in talks with states about freeing up as much as \$200 million to cover the company's self-bonding obligations during reorganization, spokeswoman Beth Sutton said.

Congress Reaches Deal to Overhaul Chemical Regulation House and Senate negotiators have reached a bipartisan agreement on a bill to set safety standards for tens of thousands of chemicals that have gone unregulated for decades. The bill would offer new protections for pregnant women, children and workers who are vulnerable to the effects of chemicals such as formaldehyde and styrene used in homes and businesses every day. The bill also would tighten restrictions on asbestos and other deadly chemicals. The agreement announced Thursday merges bills approved last year by the House and Senate. If enacted into law, it would be the first significant update to the Toxic Substances Control Act since the law was adopted in 1976. Chemical regulation took on new urgency after a 2014 spill in West Virginia contaminated drinking water.

## **WALL STREET JOURNAL**

EPA Issues New Health Advisories for Chemical Found Near Some Plastics Plants Agency decreases acceptable concentrations of PFOA and PFOS. The Environmental Protection Agency announced a new health advisory Thursday for perfluorooctanoic acid, a potentially toxic chemical, calling for water utilities across the nation to adhere to a stricter guideline than the agency had previously recommended. In recent months, state investigators in New York, Vermont and New Hampshire have found high levels of the chemical, known as PFOA, in drinking-water wells and groundwater near former and current chemical plants, alarming residents and raising concern about PFOA contamination in other parts of the country. The Environmental Working Group, a Washington-based advocacy group that assesses chemicals in consumer products and the environment, sent a letter in late April to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy urging the agency to set an enforceable drinking-water standard for the chemical and to force former manufacturers to disclose all sites in the U.S. where they used, made or dumped PFOA. On Thursday, the EPA declared that drinking water with PFOA concentrations of 70 parts per trillion or more were not healthy for human consumption. In 2009, the agency issued a provisional guideline of 400 parts per trillion. The EPA has been reviewing PFOA guidelines for months, and state environmental agencies have been setting their own guidelines. New York and New Hampshire both set limits of 100 parts per trillion, while Vermont had a stricter standard of 20 parts per trillion.

## **GRIST**

Why is Trump so fixated on abolishing the EPA? Donald Trump's presidential campaign has been notably light on policy specifics. Yet one of his very few clear proposals is to abolish the Environmental Protection Agency. He has called for doing so repeatedly, although he sometimes calls it the "Department of Environmental" or "DEP." And he's not the only Republican presidential contender to call for putting EPA on the chopping block. Rick Perry, Ron Paul, and Newt Gingrich also called for eliminating the agency, and Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio called for drastically limiting its authority. As Trump gears up to give a big energy policy speech at a conference hosted by the North Dakota Petroleum Council next Thursday, it's worth examining what his signature environmental policy proposal would mean. And why does someone with so few specific policy goals have it in for EPA in the first place? It's hard to know what goes on under Trump's combover. His campaign did not respond to a request for comment, nor did his new energy policy advisor, Rep. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.). Taken literally, Trump's proposal to abolish EPA is a recipe for dirty air and legal chaos. EPA doesn't just invent its regulations out of thin air. It is the agency charged with implementing laws such as the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act, which have been passed by Congress. It studies pollutants that are harmful to human health, writes rules to curb those pollutants, and monitors compliance. If Congress abolished EPA but did not repeal the laws that require the federal government to limit pollution, the result would be total incoherence.